Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

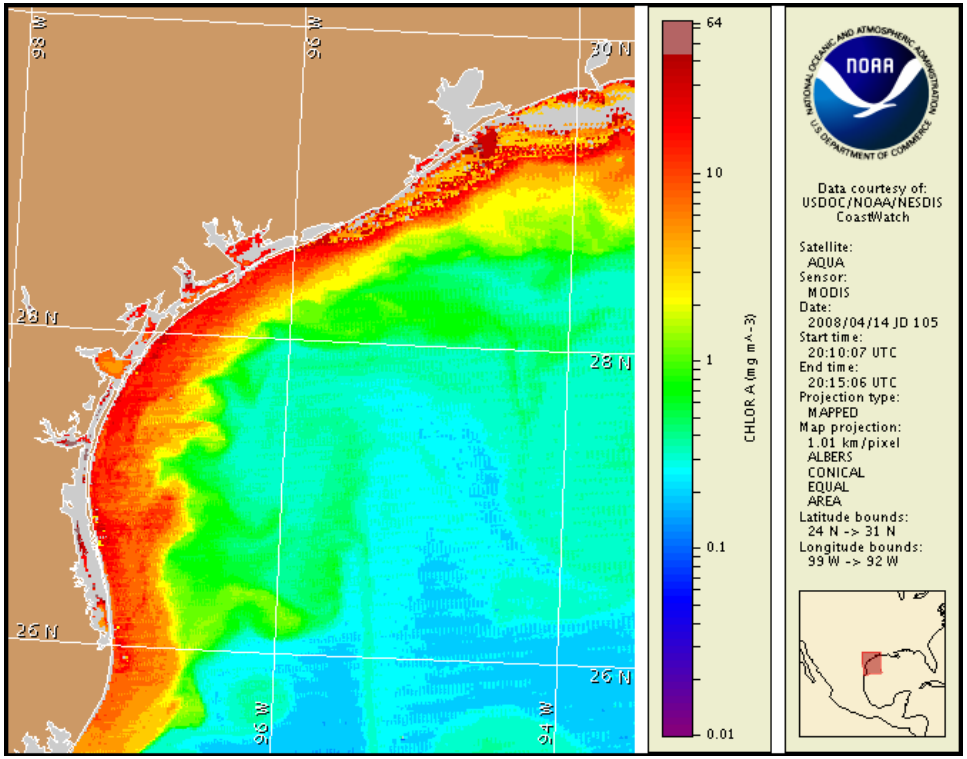
Region: Texas

16 April 2008

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: April 1, 2008



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from April 7 to 15 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

1. Data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive GeoEye approval via the CoastWatch Program.

Conditions Report

No change in conditions have been reported by Texas since the last bulletin. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has re-opened the approved portion of Lavaca Bay, Caracahua Bay and the approved portion of Tres Palacios Bay. Due to elevated toxin levels in oyster tisuues the following bays remain closed to shellfish harvesting: Corpus Christi, Aransas (including St. Charles Bay and Carlos Bay), Copano, Mesquite, San Antonio, Espiritu Santo, and Matagorda Bays. East Matagorda Bay remains open. This is not the usual Texas "red tide" organism, (Karenia brevis) and it does not cause respiratory irritation.

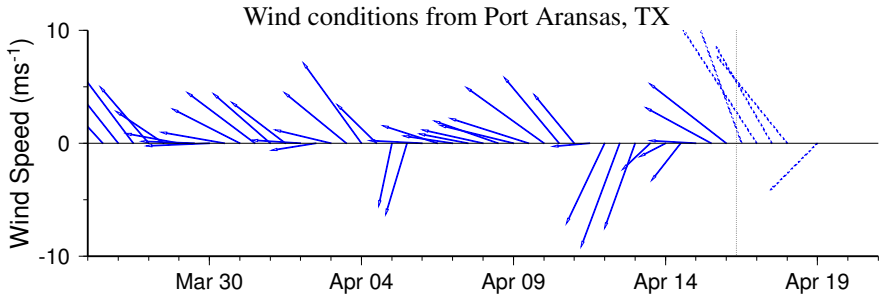
Analysis

Blooms of *Dinophysis* are rare in the US and we do not have a standard for monitoring with remote sensing. Imagery does not provide a useful reference for the blooms, but may aid in circulation patterns.

Indications are that *Dinophysis* has diminished significantly.

The strong onshore winds may produce resuspension and discolored water that are normal and not related to harmful algae.

Stumpf, Tomlinson

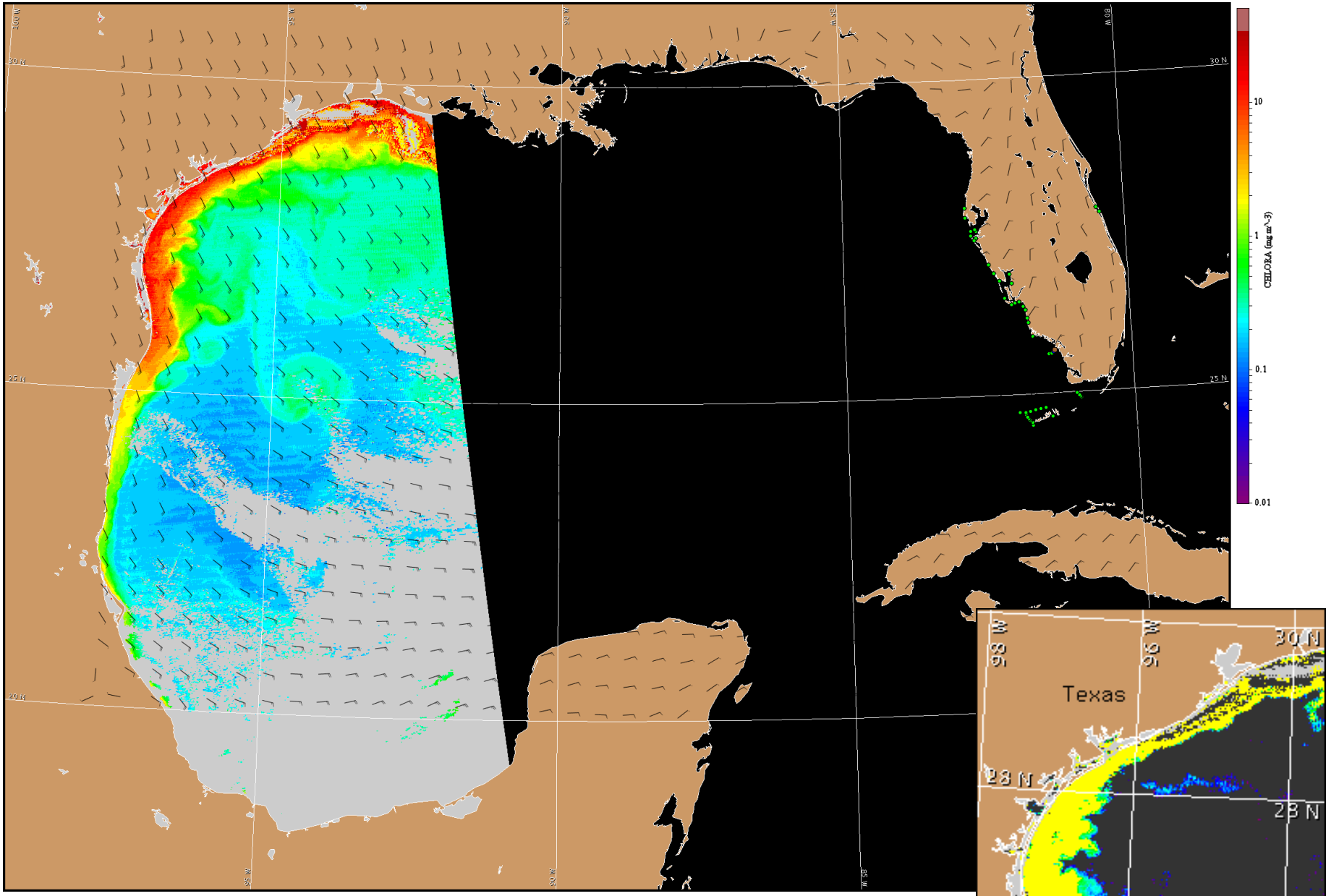


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

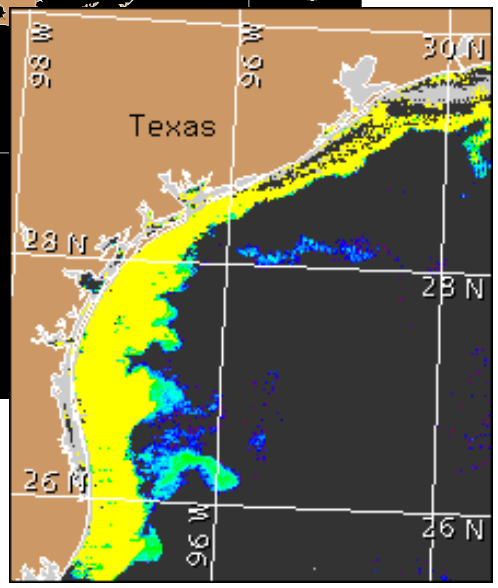
Wind Analysis

Strong onshore winds are expected over the next two days. A wind shift is expected over the weekend with the passage of a cold front.

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA CoastWatch bulletin archive: http://coastwatch.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins_ns.htm



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for April 17, 2008 06Z with Cell concentration sampling data from April 7 to 15 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



Verifi ed and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).